



DELPHI PROCESS OF RESEARCH AND POLICY INTERVENTION FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AUTHORS	Dr. Howard Ramos, Serperi Sevgur and Dr. Patrick McGrath
AFFILIATION	Dalhousie University
RESEARCH PARTNER	The Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition (CYRRC)
KEYWORDS	Refugee, Children, Youth, Research, Policy, Priorities Service Providers, Canada

WHAT THE RESEARCH IS ABOUT

Objective: This research identifies the research and policy needs of experts from academia, service provider agencies, and education organizations who are members of the Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition (CYRRC).

Research Justification: For the settlement and integration of newcomers to be successful, there is a need for more research and evidence to guide policy decisions, and service operation and programing. Furthermore, interventions and policies can benefit from the diverse views that different sector experts share about refugee immigration, settlement, and integration issues.

Practical Goal: To identify cross-sectoral consensus on research and policy priorities for refugee children, youth, and families.

Intended Primary Audience: Researchers, Policy Makers, and Service Providers

HOW WAS THE DATA OBTAINED

Research Method: The researchers used the Delphi technique; a method that uses a series of questions to collect respondents' opinions and identify consensus. This research was administered in two rounds and through an online survey sent to 87 CYRRC members.

Round 1 consisted of 4 open-ended questions with the first 2 asking participants to list research and policy issues they consider pressing. The other 2 questions asked participants to state the sector they work in and how long they have been working on newcomer issues. 41% of the sample responded. Answers were distilled into themes and translated into statements for round 2.

Round 2 consisted of 149 statements; 91 related to research and 58 related to policy issues. Participants were asked to rate each statement on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the most pressing. In round 2, 33.3% of the sample responded.

Below is a summary of the top three research and policy priorities identified by respondents. The full report identifies the top *statements* and groupings of statements, called *themes*. The summary mentions both but mainly the former.

WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Round 1: Participants were primarily interested in research that identify factors that facilitate the integration of refugee children and youth, followed by research on refugee families. The third priority was both on identifying factors to predict settlement and immigration outcomes, and research on language skills and learning.

Round 2: There was a high consensus that research should focus on factors that facilitate and impede social integration and education outcomes, the impact of mental health conditions, and school dropout issues.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Round 1: There were similar interests in policy and research. However, here, participants placed a higher emphasis on the theme of education. The primary policy statement, in order, is on specialized programs, followed by K-12 education. Two priorities shared third place: policy intervention on official language training, and issues that affect refugee parents and families.

Round 2: The top three consensus on policy priorities were on family reunification, access to post secondary education and provision of anti-racist, anti-discriminatory programs. Emphasis was also placed on policies that address family issues. This includes, for instance, policies for more effective family reunification outcomes, and to address the poverty of families.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Of the 91 research needs and 58 policy needs identified in this study, there is consensus among respondents on the 5 key areas that the coalition, researchers, policy makers, and service providers should prioritize:

1. Family wellbeing and integration
2. Educational experiences and aspirations
3. Long-term, longitudinal or life course outcomes
4. Mental health and experiences of bullying and discrimination
5. Coordinating 'best practices', policies and data.

CALL TO ACTION

Although the study offers five key areas of focus chosen by CYRRC members, the authors recommended that researchers, service providers, and policy makers consult the full list of research and policy needs when pursuing interventions and research opportunities, creating policies, and in their advocacy work.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT](#)

This research was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada